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SOURCE Anadolu.

RECENT GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN ALBANIA

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

An Ankara News Agency dispatch dated 28 September from Ioannina, Greece, reported that a 1,200-man guerrilla force led by Akif Dedo, leader of the Albanian nationalist guerrillas, fought a 2-day battle, on 26 - 27 September, with an Albanian militia regiment in the mountainous area south of Tepelene. The guerrillas, having long expected an attack and being well entrenched, easily threw back the militia and eventually routed the regiment by a counter-attack. The battle cost the guerrillas 70 dead and more than 100 wounded; while the militia suffered 200 dead and a number of prisoners, including the regiment's political commissar, a Russian, who was shot immediately after being captured. (1)

According to another Ankara News Agency dispatch from Ioannina, dated 30 September, regular guerrilla units clashed with government forces in northern Albania 3 days before the fight at Tepelene. In spite of great pressure, the government troops, estimated at about a division, were unable to dislodge the guerrillas from their positions.

The dispatch added that an air of revolt is present throughout Albania and that, in spite of threats and violence, the mountain peasants are continuing to aid the guerrillas. As an example it cited the village of Avanti in southern Albania where the villagers killed a Communist agent who had been sent there to discover who was helping the guerrillas. According to the dispatch, the actual killer was immediately liquidated and the entire population removed to the gypsy villages of Hula and Heric near Tirana. The dispatch added that all the villages in the Korce area have been similarly evacuated and that the people concerned are now obliged to report personally every day to the police of the localities in which they have been resettled. (2)

SOURCES

1. Izmir, Anadolu, 29 Sep 1952
2. Ibid., 1 Oct 1952

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